

Statewide Forest Strategy Stakeholder Comments April-May 2010

The following stakeholder comments were considered and incorporated with other stakeholder input as detailed on <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/5438.htm>

Written comments from Statewide Forest Strategy Input & Survey

These comments have not been edited.

Trudy Dunaway Brown private landowner

Acquire more land to connect forest corridors. Ban clear cutting.

Jon Seymour Conservation group

Concentrate zoning to limit expansion and reward reuse of already developed land. New development should retain ALL timber located on the property that is NOT directly affected by the development itself. Less green lawn -- much more woods and prairie Need to prioritize the war on invasives which will have different priority lists in different parts of the State.

Barbara Cummings Government

Connect regionally state held multi-agency properties with forested hike/bike trails. Include riparian corridors in plan to connect state-owned properties w/hike/bike trails. Develop a state-wide gathering of ash seeds, with appropriate storage provided someplace. Increase federally funded incentives for forest management like

Lindsey Purcell University

Conservation of woodlands or woodlots designated as urban natural resource areas. Improve forest areas in urban watershed areas as they relate to CSO's. Enhance and expand awareness of the benefits of trees and woodlots in urban areas.

Dex Conaway Other

Continuity and contiguity in forest ecosystems is essential for species migration of all types. Climate change poses a huge threat to these species in due time will most likely require them to migrate northward to a cooler climate they are most acclimated to. Therefore, it be imperative we allow freedom of movement for these species. State forests should also be expanded to include timbers for local construction and for local food production. Our forests should also be gardens and a source for local materials. We should begin to integrate different fruit and nut bearing trees, such as the American Chestnut, and others to also provide a perennial food supply that is supported through the forest ecosystem. Local food and timber production will be essential in the decades to come with respect to climate change and peak oil setting limits to our vast, global trade network.

mark scales Private landowner

Create incentives for farmers not to cut any more tracts.

Gary Armstrong Primary industry

Develop a comprehensive method to prioritize fragmentation strategies when setting forest management guidelines Develop a mechanism to prioritize these strategies A strategy to prioritize this work is essential.

Brian Crockett Private landowner

develop incentives to convert mining ground to forest and be converted to state owned public ground. develop increased incentives for land owners to invest in forestry management

Brian Gandy Other

Develop a program that allows landowners to get low interest loans to buy out their siblings during estate settlement. Educate county drainage boards on the function of a flood plain. We need to promote creeks and streams instead of ditches. Field tiles need a retention system. Regulate tile systems to a minimum to allow ground water recharge. Cost share assistance.

Mary K. Rothert Recreation

Discontinue forest wildlife openings Curtail harvest on slopes

Carroll Ritter Private landowner

Dissallow logging in backcountry designated areas Publish listing of bad logging abuses and loggers
Fine those that abuse lands Increase percent of forest that are in the age class of 50-200 years

Dawn Hewitt Recreation Drastically reduce timber cutting in state forests and other public lands.
Designate large parcels as future old-growth forests. Drastically reduce timber cutting in state forests and other public lands. Designate large parcels as future old-growth forests. Increase the percent of forests that are in the age class of greater than 100 years old. Manage forests for nongame species. Stop managing to increase deer herd! State foresters should help private landowners to use best practices in long term forest management. Public land should not be timbered.

Ruth Turner Private landowner

Education of the public Education of the public I strongly support the restriction of nursery stock. Triple check on that. I don't know about it as a strategy, but the impact of climate change and severe weather on our eco system needs to be address somehow!

Dave Gahimer Private landowner

Encourage bequeithment of small tracts to NPOs, such as the Boy Scouts Councils for management. This would include Recreational use, TSI, coordinated management w/ St. Forester, best practice harvesting w/ proceeds supporting the BSA local Council. Be Positive ! ENCOURAGE, good harvesting practices by rewarding & honoring good harvesters. Ask RCDs to support local awards. Teach & Train the next generation of woodland owners/ wood products beneficiaries. Develop a Youth program to involve high schoolers/ youth organizations in Invasives eradication locally

Nathan Mathews Conservation group

Encourage new urban forest plantings following Right tree Right place guidelines. Develop urban Zoning guidelines to encourage new developement with minimal loss of existing forest and protect old growth trees withing urban communities Create BMPS for cities and urban areas to mitigate Runoff and erosion problems. Increase wildlife management programs that help protect urban vegetation form over grazing and destruction. Expand and enhance public information and training oportunities for management of urban foprest reasources. Develop state wide awareness of the dollar values of urban forest as well as the indirrect environmental values associated with cooling efects, storm water runoff and erosion controll as well as the human behavior impact of healthy urban forests.

Peter Gould Private landowner

Encourage swapping of publicly-owned land fragments (often land-locked and difficult to manage) with adjacent property owners for land that is contiguous to existing publicly-owned land - would reduce demands on DNR enforcement personnel and be better managed by private landowners - could be done with a conservation agreement. Promote legislation that would allow local planning ordinances to protect local watersheds - it is my understanding that state law prohibits local regulation of logging activities - even when being done by bad actors and using Worst Management Practices (WMP's)

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Glenn Pfleiderer Private landowner

Enough programs already. Some of the above aren't clear as to their meaning Who determines "bad actors"? Or is this just gov getting its nose in the tent? All forests are "ecologically unique" to an aggregate of "someones" . Witness gov. programs tying up production for various mice, bugs etc., etc.,

Larry Brown Government

Expand educational programs that promote long term planning of private forests and their potential revenue production.

Jeffrey D. Holland University

Facilitate dispersal of forest organisms between large forested areas with corridors or stepping stone forests. Limit invasive species in forests by reducing edge effects and corridors into

forests. Encourage forest biodiversity with diverse stands of complex mixture of tree ages, snags, and dead wood.

Jacob Florine Government

Focus on connecting existing forest patches with tree plantings and riparian corridors

Adam G. Dumond Government

Healthy forests should be promoted by any means necessary and efficient, but not regulated. I do not support a mandatory BMP law, I think we do a good enough job voluntarily. Instead focus on education of landowners and identifying loggers who consistently violate BMP's. We need to focus our efforts on areas where control can be achieved long-term and stop wasting money near generally infested urban areas. I don't like the word "preserve". Cut the deer population in half. Forests are a valuable resource, let's promote that fact and let the free market do its work before we regulate the greatest forest industry in the US to death.

Joanne Haymaker Private landowner

I am for protecting and increasing forestland throughout the state especially in areas where forestland is a better product than cropland...but then I'm also in favor of protecting cropland but not expanding it at the expense of forests. I would like to see less parcelization of land for development uses and more efforts to keep the property as a whole at the death of a landowner/sale of larger farms/woods. Penalize farmers who clear cut to waterways. Insure that all logging companies are certified for proper harvesting of land...allow no clear cutting.

Rock Emmert Private landowner

I am very opposed to the massive cuts occurring in the Ferdinand State Forest. While I am against cutting on our public lands in general, especially in a park where people go to experience pristine, dense woods, seeing hillsides with countless stumps is a travesty!

Kathleen Abrell Government

I believe these principles apply not only to forestland, but to ANY greenspace, including areas managed for wildlife (prairie plantings, wetlands, etc.) Again, stop focusing solely on forestland. Farmers who break the soil and raise row crops on hills are as abusive to watersheds as bad loggers, and they get crop price supports to do it! Regulate the number of cattle/acre allowed to graze on marginal land as well, and don't allow cattle to graze in riparian areas. Establish strong zoning restrictions on confinement operations that drain directly into watersheds. Stop development of commercial businesses in floodplains- it's still happening. Public agencies, such as the Classified Forest Programs, have no right demanding landowners control invasives on private lands until state forests, parks, and fish & wildlife areas clean their properties up first. Many state forests are rampant in invasives, and the recent heavy logging in state forests is opening up the tree canopy and exacerbating the problem. At least 50% of the income from state forest logging should be designated for exotics control on that same forest.

Require large tracts of state property to remain unlogged, to accommodate the requirements of the declining neo-tropical migrants species. Require all regeneration openings be at least 2000 feet from

the boundaries to prevent the detrimental affects of edge species on interior forest species. Forest landowners get too many incentives benefits now. We should not be helping with timber stand improvement, fencing, etc. It is the forest landowner's responsibility to fund his own TSI. If he makes \$10,000 worth of income off his harvest, it is the LANDOWNER who should have to take some of his own profits to pay for post harvest TSI. Why should the taxpayer pay for the work, so that his next harvest will make him even more money??? Why should the taxpayer pay to put fences up to keep HIS cows out of HIS woods??? That is the landowner's responsibility, no one else's. If any cost share is offered, it should be funded through a mandatory tax on all forest harvests. Force a landowner contribute a 2% harvest tax on his profits, that will go into a fund to cost share forestry practices. Or make it voluntary, but if you don't contribute, you don't ever get any cost share. Also, increase the number of cost share programs for classified wildlands owners. Most current programs require a cropping history. If a landowner is responsible and never crops a steep hillside, he gets no subsidies to help with exotics control, food plot or prairie plantings, etc. Stop focusing only on forests- there are a whole lot of beneficial wildlife habitats being ignored that are receiving no funding.

Katherine A Phipps Private landowner

I don't understand what, in this sense, fragmentation means. The questions checked disregard I either don't understand or I meant disregard. Monetary help to remove and control invasives. Some landowners can't do it themselves or hire someone to do it. The deer population may be hard to control on small holdings as they roam. Again, some may not fully understand the repercussions of the questions. Some explanation of terms would be helpful.

Dave Cline Private landowner

I still have problems with legal limits on conversion. I understand the intent but I still believe in protecting the rights of private landowners and I would suggest this be accomplished through incentives and not through legal obstructions. While in general I agree with the objectives I would ask you consider other alternatives such as increasing conversion of fescue to warm season grasses/forbs(WSGF). Maybe that is outside the scope of this project but WSGF also provide the benefit of ecological diversity while also doing an excellent job of preventing erosion. Fescue does this too but obviously without the added benefits to wildlife. Not sure what you mean regarding allowing removal of invasive species on private lands unless this gets at requiring landowners to do this through legislation. Not sure how effective this would be and would probably damage future partnerships with these individuals to a large degree. I would definitely restrict the sale of nursery stock. Autumn/russian olive is still sold, so is bush honeysuckle. This is insane.

Gregory J Konger Private landowner

I think it would be great if neighborhoods adopted a forest landscape instead of a mowed landscape. It could be more contiguous that way. I seen how beautiful it can be to live in a dry forest, and it wouldn't take near as much energy to maintain as the lawn does. Who really wants to be exposed to all the elements anyway. I not so sure that we should eliminate invasive species all together. They can sometimes provide us with more food than crops can without all the energy and work. I believe we should slow down our world travel so that we are not introducing so many at such an alarming rate.

I believe that in our materialistic culture, we need to find ways to reduce our trash and energy usage down to a sustainable level. I believe we need to start consolidating our structures so that we have more space to grow trees and plants. Do we really need a buildings that serve only one purpose like a restaurant that serves the same menu all the time. It seems to me that we waste so much space on things we don't need. It would be better if these cooks and restaurants provided these meals in a place where they could take turns like in a cafeteria setting at a community center where people can live and work without the fear of being fired, or being layed off, or put out on the street.

Justin Harrington Government

If statewide expansion of classified forest program is not feasible, a possibility may exist to expand classified forest program in localized focus areas surrounding existing public forests or large protected forest patches. For all channelization activities and tree cutting of all permanent streams throughout Indiana, require reclamation of forested habitat within the local stream corridor.

Robert Schaible Private landowner

In answering above, preservation of forests is assumed to mean maintaining acreage of forests by best management practices including harvesting. Parcelization should not be prohibited but incentives should be given to reduce parcelization. Using existing infrastructure corridors should not preclude creating new ones. Increasing forest cover is desirable but watersheds includes all land masses, urban and rural. Some lands should be planted to grasses. Preserve should not preclude harvesting under best management practices.

George B. Rose Private landowner

In connecting existing patches, put priority on creating large patches, longer distances from edges to interior, and having large patches in different regions of state. 1. Provide free firewood at public campgrounds. 2. Enforcement against moving firewood. 3. Create invasives removal hotshot team for attacking infestations on public lands. 4. Attempt eradication of new infestations. 5. Provide costshare for landowners for invasives removal. Create/expand/publicize a Landowner Incentive Program for Indiana (such as exists in Illinois).

George B. Rose Private landowner

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Darrel Potter Private landowner

Increase economic incentives to re-connect fragmented forest.

Burney Fischer University

Increase emphasis on protecting forestland within and near cities and towns, these linkages are important and create more opportunities to interact with the public. Soil and Water issues are more urban than rural, so more emphasis should be placed on protecting and expanding urban tree canopy cover. Many invasives start in urban environments. More emphasis should be placed here before they spread to rural areas where the opportunities are control are much more difficult. Increase DNR support for urban forestry.

Alan Cruser Private landowner Increase forest educational support through Soil & Water Conservation Districts to reach more landowners. Increase forest educational support through Soil & Water Conservation Districts to reach more landowners. Increase economic incentives to control invasive plants in forests. Determine and target invasive plants most damaging to biodiversity and productivity in forests. * not sure what 6th point means. Determine and target invasive plants most damaging to biodiversity.

Jon Eggen Conservation group

Increase fragmentation of mature forest with tracts of young forest but maintain as all forest. Develop BMPs specifically for riparian forest. Increase protection of riparian forest tracts from development.

Significantly reduce percent of forest in the 50 - 100 year age range. Increase disturbance such as fire in forests with ages between 50 and 100 years. Increase harvest of mature trees to increase young forest to increase diversity.

Forrest Fleischman University

Land use planning and zoning works & should be used more! Decrease logging & other forest disruptions that aid the spread of invasives There is a particular lack of old forests in this region.

Rhonda Baird Limit timber harvesting, log yards, road building, etc. . . on public lands.

Encourage BMPs to promote healthy forest soil ecologies on both private and public lands--so that soil and water quality improves over time. Move toward mid- to late-successional stages on public forest lands and stop introducing invasive species. Educate owners and public regarding the disadvantages of management practices as well. It's not one-sided. With regard to biomass -- educate individuals and groups about the potential damage to ecosystems and people with the use of biomass.

Rex Watters Government

Maintain and expand early successional woodland habitats for grouse, woodcock and species with similar habitat needs. Land use guidelines and education are one thing, regulated, mandated control over private land use is unacceptable. Maintain trail systems, disabled hunter access lanes, and improve parking and vehicle access to forest areas managed for public use.

Jess Gwinn Private landowner

Make BMPs mandatory with true enforcement. Biomass should be heavily discouraged for any use.

Steven Schmidt Private landowner

mitigate conversion of forest land for public use other than recreation

William R. Reese Private landowner

Need to manage state lands better. 20 years or so ago the state bulldozed a horse trail through Clark State Forest property that abuts some of our land. There is no supervision of this land (not surprising given the low staffing levels of state forests) and erosion and litter are quite pronounced. Erosion is especially bad at places where riders leave the trail and trespass across the unmarked land boundaries among the ridges of this forested area. Litter and erosion are particularly bad at an old beacon tower in this area and on the south facing side of Oak Knob where the horses have worn what was formerly a steep foot path all the way down to the shale bedrock. A firing range was put in near me that needs to be moved or some kind of sound abatement program needs to be applied. The state put a lot of money into improving Bowen Lake Draining it and putting in structures to improve fishing. I feel this money was wasted since I don't think many people use this lake because of the noise from the firing range. They also bulldozed a lot of native wild flowers when it was built.

sara stark Private landowner

no "harvesting" to timber companies let's not harvest "enhance dispersal?"

Ed Stuff Private landowner none none none none none

Duane Drockelman Private landowner

None Possibly develop an incentive program and/or for the landowner to enter a smaller acreage (<10 ac) into Classified Forest or, an easement for tax incentive. Allow removal of certain invasive species on private lands - Do you mean the State to have that right with or without landowner's permission? Increase state funded for forest management like?????

Craig Ruble Private landowner

Offer incentives for neighboring landowners to manage tracts together.

Janet Spring Other

Plant available lands to increase forest cover. Encourage new edible forests on private land, combining income with forest cover. Look at the Monroe County Strategic Development plan for some very specific strategies to achieve some of the above goals. Make use of existing knowledge. For example remediation of toxics by fungi. Second example the use of livestock to upgrade soils (see Joel Salatin)

which might be used before returning an area to forest cover. Third example carefully balancing the mix of plants in an area to create the healthiest forest. Fourth example, applying newest learning about soil microbiology and including that in best practices. And the note about edible forests above applies here also. Invasive plants should be removed mechanically, not chemically. Do not further weaken the ecosystem in this removal. Create a jobs program - perhaps like the CCC - for removal of invasives and planting of preferred species. (Where possible use species compatible with the ecosystem being restored.) Create a jobs program (as above) to actually implement these goals. Hire and train large numbers of future foresters to help with this. Biomass harvesting guidelines should be radically changed from current practices! Biomass should be returned to the soil, ideally at the place of removal, otherwise where needed locally. Biomass should NEVER be burned except in emergencies involving very dangerous disease. I am opposed to licensing, especially by a state whose prevailing practices have not been environmentally friendly.

Sarah Mincey University

Promote (increase funding for) urban forestry programs that facilitate connectivity within urban areas and between urban and rural lands interfaces. Provide incentives to urban dwellers for promoting canopy cover and decreasing impervious surfaces. Utilize mechanical removal, use less herbicide and pesticide.

Bernadette de Leon Private landowner

Provide trees free to landowners who want to increase forest cover. (This goes along with incentives, but it is one that makes sense as cheaply as trees can be grown.) Decrease dredging, which creates erosion upstream as the channel works to an equilibrium. I don't know if there was supposed to be an example in the comment above ("Increase state funded incentives for forest management like"), but I would add free trees again. Both "wildlife food" and large hardwood species.

Michael Crews Government

quit building so many roads through the best habitat plant trees within interstate highway margins and make bigger fences to keep wildlife in or out, plant trees anywhere we can mandate a rule where you can not plant within 30 feet of a creek, not incentives just law Once invasives are treated a followup planting of natives must take place

Donald Edward Winslow University

Reduce road densities in public forests. Reduce timber harvest levels in public forests. Remove roads and restore log landings to native vegetation. Reduce road densities. Minimize disturbance of climax forests. Engage volunteer organizations and use mechanical means to remove species that are BOTH exotic and invasive. Inventory biodiversity on public lands. Preserve large tracts of late-successional forest, allowing natural disturbance to create younger seres. Reduce road densities.

David Futa Private landowner

Reduce the acreage for Classified forest from 15 to 5 acres. Many small landowners have 5-10 acre lots and do nothing with them treating it as waste land instead of the wildlife corridors and species mix they are capable of. Actively recruit landowners for participation in watershed CRP to incorporate tall grass or wooded plantings that slope towards wetlands or the water shed in general. There are WAY too many fields that use fertilizers and herbicides right up to and up slope from ditches and streams. People I've talked to have NEVER heard of CRP and water shed protection. You need an aggressive ad campaign to the public, and direct contact utilizing the county recorder offices directly to the land owners to educate them. Educate the general public via TV ads and print media, and radio as to how they as a small part of the system can have a great impact by correctly using items such as Roundup and 2-4-D to control Bush Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive on their small .5 to 2 acre lots. And Reed Canary Grass, etc... Pass legislation to make it either illegal or very expensive via application fees, penalties, or loss

of subsidies for large scale farmers who are constantly and at alarming rates, eliminating fence rows to farm larger fields at the expense of the diversity and corridors.

Robert Craig Recreation

Several of the above are not worded clearly enough to reflect exactly what is being proposed; use less technical and subject/topic specific language. Put it in common terms. And just what are the BMPs? (#3, b above). For example: just why is logging now considered a BMP for the M-M/YF back country east of Low Gap Road? Just leave it alone. Preserve and encourage natural succession in preserved areas with minimum (or no) intrusion of logging practices and clearing. Again, much of the above language (and choices at right) are not clear or even inbetween/applicable.

David Haberman Conservation group

Since our state forests represent one of our best opportunities for developing mature forest that are not fragmented by roads, etc., it would be greatly beneficial to end the commercial logging program on these public forests and nurture them into preserves for biodiversity. One of the most effective ways of introducing and spreading invasive species is logging roads. We need to especially protect areas that have roadless sections or have roads that have not been in use for a number of years. A good example of such an area is the Back Country Area of Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. No more roads should be bulldozed into this precious area, and the area should continue to be maintained as off limits to commercial logging. Other "roadless areas" should be identified and protected. Again, the state forests are our best shot at creating reserves of biodiversity within the state. What we need more than anything else are mature forests that are allowed to return to a condition of "old growth." Species that rely on open lands are not nearly as threatened as the species that rely on mature forests with dense canopies. Regarding the last point, preserving ecologically unique forests: here is another reason to not begin logging the Back Country Area in Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood, and to stop logging the other Back Country Areas in the state. These lands were set aside in 1981 to demonstrate to the federal government that the state could create and maintain wilderness areas. We have not done well here, but the opportunity still exists to accomplish this. Please give special protection to the Back Country Areas! The public state forest system is the best place for citizens of this state to address the preservation of biodiversity in the state that require mature forests for survival. We need to begin working with restorative ecologists and biologists to nurture these forests back to a mature condition, and concentrating the educational work about sustainable logging on private lands. Since the largest portion of the forests in Indiana are in private hands, we need to continue to promote true sustainable forestry among private landowners in the state. Ending commercial logging within the state forests and concentrating on educating private land owners would be a good strategy for the Division of Forestry.

Margaret E Meyer Private landowner

sirs, what does "infrastructure corridors" mean? Terminal/conversion harvests? too much shop talk

I vote especially for the cleaning and treating of logging equipment before moving to new sites; i.e. tree of heaven is horrible.shop talk---enhance dispersal and genetic integrity??????????

Steve Watson

Some of your questions contain too many "high dollar words". I am not an English major, thus I do not understand the question. Tone it DOWN.

Joanna Sparks Environmental group

Stop building roads & log yards in the State Forests and eliminate the existing logging roads & log yards that span almost every ridge in the SF system. Not only will this reduce fragmentation it will also lower the possibility of invasive species introduction & expansion. The general public needs more information. The importance of invasives prevention & elimination is not currently understood. To engage the general public to take action on their own properties could make a monumental difference.

Regarding the increase of forests less than 19 years of age- it is not necessary to continue nor increase the current DoF strategy of clearcutting to achieve this goal. The amount of timber harvesting & development occurring everywhere (on private lands) is continually creating more "forests" in this age class. The emphasis needs to be placed on protecting the older forests. This is the forest type that we most lack and most need to encourage protecting on public & private lands. Biomass should not be coming from forests. The amount of time it takes a forest to recover from this type of harvesting is absolutely not consistent with any type of forest health/protection plan. If biomass must be used it needs to be sourced from annually renewable & perennial crops such as switchgrass, etc. Converting land currently in agriculture (annual row crops) from seed corn production (for high fructose corn syrup & to feed animals in confined feeding operations) to annual & perennial grasses would also help to protect soil & water quality.

Andy Mahler Conservation group

stop logging and road building in public forests a portion of proceeds from every timber sale should go to acquiring more protected forest land no industrial scale biomass incinerators make BMPs mandatory -- also require logger training and certification no cut zones along riparian corridors establish slope and soil type restrictions re-vegetate roads in public forests -- no new roads consolidate public forest holdings no logging in public forests avoid use of toxics most invasives follow disturbance no new roads in public forests, no logging in public forests increase the percentage of forests in the 100 year old plus age classes protect habitat for songbirds, bats and other old growth and closed canopy forest dependent species no industrial scale biomass incinerators stop industrial scale biomass incineration reverse global climate change lest all other measures prove insufficient to protect forests eliminate subsidies for biomass incineration encourage tree plantings and natural regeneration on a grand scale to sequester carbon, improve air and water quality and restore forest cover to at least one third of the state

Linda Baden Environmental group

Stop logging in Yellowwood State Forest. Seeming "minor" fragmentation of the canopy through road building and log yards disrupts the natural cycle and increases the potential for invasive species to flourish. Stop all logging on watersheds in the State Forest system. Acknowledge that the state forest system was created to preserve and build soil, NOT to harvest trees. Stop logging on State Forests. Logging introduces invasives through soil disturbance, creating breaks in the canopy, direct contamination, and misguided efforts by state foresters who introduced the most pervasive invasives into the State Forests in the first place. Until the deer problem is controlled, at least in Yellowwood State Forest, it is pure folly to attempt to establish "less than 19 year-old" forests and expect any possibility of biodiversity. Deer browsing is destroying the understory and preventing oak regeneration. Stop logging in the state forests and let the forests mature. Suburbanization will supply plenty of young forests. Establish a real public input process for the state forest, not the pseudo "open houses." Require IEPA assessments for all soil-disturbing activities in watersheds.

Ralph W. Sweet Private landowner

Suggest that farmers do not remove trees from existing fence rows where practical to keep wind erosion down. Advise landowners what are invasives and what are native species.

Robert J. Boklund Private landowner

Support the efforts of local organizations (land trusts, etc.) to preserve and conserve forest lands particularly in Forest Legacy Areas: In 2004, the Forestry Div. held focus sessions in the Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) around the state. Ours here in the Northwestern Moraine FLA had some of the best participation in the state. But back then we were also told that because the FL funds available for Indiana were so limited, aside from occasional FL projects here, saving most of these forest resources here would be largely left up to us locals. Since then, we local land trusts (SHLT, LPCCT, STD) have

indeed been making notable strides toward achieving this goal, through the activities of our Moraine-Forest Committee. The Forestry Div. has generously provided us with some of the needed maps. But we have been very disappointed by their lack of involvement, encouragement or even interest, regarding our progress or how they could aid us in this effort. The Div. had effectively turned the job of securing the permanent protection of most of the forests in this FLA over to us. But then, aside from providing those maps, they essentially divorced themselves from any meaningful involvement in our efforts. This has been very disappointing, to say the very least. While we understand that lack of sufficient funding can prevent the Div. from acting more to directly protect forests here. But providing at least practical advice and "moral support" for our efforts would cost the Div. next to nothing. It would, however, add greatly to the credibility of our efforts and could also help prevent us from having to "reinvent the wheel" in much of what we undertake. And most certainly, the development and adoption of as many of the anti-fragmentation strategies described above as possible would also be of tremendous aid to our efforts. Prohibit the development of forest lands essential for preventing serious erosion and maintaining water quality of significant waterways. Develop, disseminate and utilize safe and effective biological controls for invasives, wherever this is possible. Provide instruction/information for landowners on how they can increase native biodiversity in their forest lands. Promote the vital need for forest preservation to local and state government, throughout Indiana.

ward wilkins Private landowner The database of all forest landowners to promote forestry BMPs should include the effects of fragmentation on our forests

Jerry L. Lower Private landowner

The incentive to keep forest plots in the family should be encouraged. The DNR needs more clout to conserve land usage. Example In Kosciuski County and Marshal county Creighton Bros. have been clearing wet lands, building masive manure pits which really mess up air quality - Apparently big business can get by pushing the limits ordinary citicizens can not. Example In Kosciuski County and Marshal county Creighton Bros. have been clearing wet lands, building masive manure pits which really mess up air quality - Apparently big business can get by pushing the limits ordinary citicizens can not. Stewardship and local timber harvesting practices cannot be used in the same sentences. After ten years woods is finally starting to recover from the last harvest, The tree and soil damage was unnesessary, the disrespect of the timber company, and disregard for the written contract was unbelievable. Identification training of invasive species would be very helpful

Jamie Whittig

There needs to be Laws in place to preserve Indiana forests. There seems to be a lot of farmers that are bulldozing large acreage of forest to add farmground. This is not helpful to wildlife preservation. I would like to see Indiana take a stance on Forest as they do wetlands, this includes building in forest. Limit the distance to clear trees from the creeks and river banks. Sometimes they cut trees 100-200 feet from the waters edge. This causes erosion of banks and decreases future tree growth.

Terry Marbach Conservation group

Use Conservation easements

Greg Beilfuss Government

Utilize existing forested recreation-based parcels under local, county, and other state management to fill in currently fragmented landscapes; create MOU's or other legal agreements to make these management methods official and long-lasting. Work with Purdue, NRCS, and county soil conservation professionals to encourage getter agricultural application of forested stream and field buffers (stop 'clean' farming), encourage and teach no-till, contour plowing, and terracing of erodable high-slope soils to decrease runoff and improve rain infiltration. Create a 'teaching team' of professional foresters who can travel around the state and teach landowners and interested groups first-hand about invasives, their removal and mitigation methods. Think "train the trainer". Provide

public recognition of outstandingly diverse plots of forest in public, private, and non-profit ownership. Make the publics aware of the value of conserving forest.wildlife biodiversity.

Earl M. McCleerey Government

When forest land is destroyed for development, charge a reforestation fee to developers of at least 2,000 dollars per acre and use funds as an incentive for landowners to plant other areas in trees. Plant at least 3 acres for every acre lost to developement or other "so called higher use". To have an abundance of forestland, more long term planing will have to be done or more simply put the city stops here and no more prime ag land and forest land will be developed anymore. We have a long way to go before that will happen in this state/country. We will have to refine "economic growth" and keep it in the already developed urban areas and out of our rural areas. The big houses on the .25 acre lots will have to be a thing of the past, there is only a finite amount of land on this ravaged planet. So much for the rantings of an old worn-out man. Create a tax system based on soil erosion. The more you eroded the more you pay in taxes, after all these are the people who cause the problems that cost us usually tax money to fix. All sounds good to do but where will the money come from? We need more people in the field, not more work for the dedicated few. Some invasive species are good and will be needed as we lose more native species from foreign invaders such as emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease, etc. Some invasives, if not many, are here to stay and there will not be enought money to get rid of them like Japanese honeysuckle. Biodiversity is hard to define. Forests are changing and will be different from what they were 200-300 years ago. This all takes money in an era of dwindling government funding. Forestry is always the least priority and the most poorly funded. You can get more money for preservation than you can get for conservation.

Kent Ballard Private landowner

With today's unemployment figures, Indiana would do well to develop a "CCC"-type group of younger folks to plant trees and reforest damaged or abandoned areas. To some extent, low-risk volunteers from our prison system could do this great work too. A great deal of Indiana was ditched and drained in decades past. If some of these lands are abandoned today, could they be "undrained" and allowed to refill? This could increase wetlands for wildlife and allow some water systems to "cleanse" themselves.

I'm thinking specifically of multi-flora rose bushes here. They were encouraged in the 1930's to combat soil erosion and have been a bane to Hoosiers ever since. Killing them is VERY expensive.

Someday they will find a way to defeat chestnut blight. I will never live to see a fully-grown chestnut (none of us will) but we can take steps now to insure their return for future generations. I strongly support this effort.

Larry Owen Primary industry

Work on financial payments for ecosystem services to forest landowners who manage sustainably

Work on Tree Planting methods to increase the growth and success as well as the financial incentives Provide incentives for landowners to hire trained professionals to set up management of their woodlands

Scott Ronczka Private landowner

Work with the USFS to acquire Federal land in lieu of private individuals when feasable. I am personally being affected by the loss of 240 acres of HNF land on my N. border near English, IN. This will lower my property value and reduce the land access for all adjacent land owners and nearby residents. This is a devastating loss. Offer cost sharing for invasive species control (chemicals mainly like Tordon, Round-up, etc...)

Philip N. Burket Private landowner

You have asked about the ones I'm concerned about.

Jeff Reed Government

You may want to connect with grass lands so no forest wildlife species can be produced as well.

Amy Lybarger Government

Bad Actor system- many private timber buyers trespass on personal properties to complete inventories, mark timber and then contact the landowners with sale information that was not requested by the landowner. I would like to see this stopped. This is an illegal act and should be fined. Would be very hard to do a state wide inventory of invasive species, not worth the man-hours.

Dean Zimmerman Logger

Conserve/protect forest wetlands to filter run-off and release water more slowly into streams. May be related to BMP's, but have guidelines on when and where timber harvest can occur. Wildlife biologists should work in tandem with foresters on BMP's and above guidelines. Train foresters and wildlife biologists in invasive species identification, control and management strategy so they may educate landowners as we visit them. Most landowners need assistance in assessing biodiversity issues on their property. Pertaining to question #9 below, why am I as a DNR employee only hearing about this forum on April 13th??? Kind of last minute. Also, this is a BUSY time of year for many DNR employees. You should schedule something like this in January and February.

Blake Alexander Private landowner

Develop incentives for watershed improvement on damaged or contaminated land.

Most Indiana landowners either don't understand or are unconcerned with ecology and the impact of the forests. It would be nice to find a way to educate the public about the impact of poor forestry habits.

Ashley Mulis Environmental group

Develop relationships with farmers and utilize incentives to increase the use of trees along riparian corridors and as windbreaks. Increase oak stand regeneration efforts. Educate citizens about the importance of maintaining and increasing canopy cover in cities and towns for stormwater and pollution benefits.

Angie Shelton University Develop statewide rules to limit harvesting in riparian areas and on steep slopes. Develop and enforce harvesting rules to minimize spread of invasive species including seeding log roads and skid trails with temporary cover crops.

Philip Klinge Private landowner

Erosion control

Robert McGriff Private landowner

How would many of these ideas be accomplished?? I don't want to check boxes 1,2,3 & 5 - not enough detail. I don't want to check box 6. We already preserve most ecologically unique forests.

Stan Jones Private landowner

If you wish to increase something, subsidize it. If you wish to decrease something tax it. Positive incentives are preferable to negative. Encourage certified loggers to utilize practices which minimize collateral wood stand damage and damage to adjacent property improvements during harvest. Not all stands are out in the middle of nowhere but adjacent to property improvements.

Dwayne Sieg

Include bad actors system to address abusive practices outside of harvesting practices. Provide training to landowners and managers beyond forest landowners (e.g. state parks, INDOT, schools, private nurseries, cities, etc.) Educate K-12 regarding the advantages of forests and acceptable management practices.

Tim Maloney Environmental group Incorporate forest and other natural resource conservation into local planning and zoning activities -- the concept advocated by Purdue's Planning with Power.

Understand the connection between forest management activities, land disturbance, and the spread of invasives.

Joshua Martin Conservation group

Increase areas where no motorized activity of any kind is allowed, especially in sensitive watersheds.

Develop larger areas of intact, mature forest, of which there is currently short supply

Reintroduce species, such as black bear caveat to increase 3rd party certification is that not all standards are created equal, and Indiana wants to be the best, and raise the best trees, so we should be focusing on the best certification, which is the Forest Stewardship Council.

Charles Newmann Private landowner

Make best management practices real BMPs. Encourage / require wheels under logs. Logs should not be drug through woods, tearing up soil & adjoining trees. This is a no brainer. Saying it cost tree harvesters too much is false. Europe has been doing this for decades.

Jon Behrman Other

Manage invasive plants to prevent erosion Support the creation of Cooperative weed management areas to help funnel funds to private landowners Focus on using local genotype plant material in restoration and management efforts Support the formation of cooperative weed management areas

Bruce Hronek University

Monitor suspended materials in waterways. Establish a baseline of turbidity for major streams.

Tracy Branam University

Need to eliminate timber harvest on public lands in areas sensitive to highly fluctuating soil moisture conditions which are primarily in the rugged hill country of Morgan, Monroe, Brown, Jackson, Washington, Crawford and Harrison Counties. These areas are more susceptible to drought conditions due to the thin soil, low permeable bedrock and steep slopes which contribute to rapid runoff and evaporation when the forest canopy has been disrupted. Soil erosion on timbered slopes is also more prevalent under these conditions. It would be desirable to eliminate all timber harvest on slopes exceeding a determined degree, private or public, but would be more difficult to pass or enforce if private lands are included. Implement controlled burns to eliminate more susceptible invasive species where feasible and warranted due to high density of invasives. Establish harvest limits in forested areas to minimize reduction in forest canopy. Develop formula to determine harvest density for forested areas that do not disrupt tree canopy. This will help with biodiversity, soil and water conservation and invasive species. Unique ecosystems develop under a forest canopy providing a rich biodiversity of flora that once existed here prior to forest fragmentation. Landowner (and forest management practitioners for that matter) need to be educated on ways to generate income from forest lands other than timber harvest.

Michael Hicks Environmental group

No clearcutting. No burning - let the forests be as they will. Protect that. Extremely important issue here as we have lost old growth due to extremely poor and uneducated logging practices. biomass is not eco friendly and green. We do not want the huge corporations cutting down the forests in mass scale. Defintiely another travesty for our unique Indiana hardwood forests.

june noble Other

promote composting and lessen use of garbage disposals

Jack Morgan Private landowner

Publicize the names of the "bad actors." Help forest owners identify invasive species and eradication.
I need more information about proposed tax changes.

Kenneth Klabunde Private landowner

Require farmers/ranchers to establish buffer zones between fields/pastures and streams. Too many till and graze right up to the edge of waterways, severely polluting water.

Martin Lucas Private landowner

revise drainage code to (a) encourage rather than prohibit wooded riparian corridors, and (b) credit forest properties as benefiting the watershed (rather than taxing them for 'drainage')

establish goals for restoring a percentage (e.g. 5%) of the forested lands to old growth conditions, including various forest types.

Ken Day Primary industry

Second item above: what is the definition of a "bad actor" and what is an abusive harvesting practice? Without this being really thought out and defined, it could create a lot of administrative headaches.

Dr, Sarah Clevenger University

See that there is information about soil & water usage as well as aspects of our forests that can easily be used in public and home schooling. Teach the next generation and they will continue the practices that you develop.. Teach the kids about invasive plants, They could easily be drafted as volunteers to help eradicate the invasives.

Jim Eagleman Government

use native forbs, grasses to sow in harvest area to minimize establishment of exotics; reduce spread of Jap. Stiltgrass in backcountry harvest areas. Oh... you are on it I see below! require loggers to be sensitive to these strategies with binding legal contract. Forest mgr. to confirm contract is adhered to.

save some sites on state forest land w/ oldest stands of timber for genetic integrity. Do not manage; use as potential research sites; utilize state forests as workshop sites for private landowners; promote IN hardwood industry as world leader in all IN schools; con. w/ forestry ed. programs; encourage timber industry professionals to appear in all IN public schools; increase staff of DNR consultant foresters;

John M. and Mary F. Selig Private landowner

Use pond areas in classied forest for wildlife and fish keep invasives out by giving best advice to get rid of them allow patches of grass for deer management

Pfizer Inc

1) Develop early warning system for identification of potential threats. Include a threat or risk ranking system and implement a pre-emptive strike protocol to attack issues before they become too widespread to be economically managed. 2) Rank existing threats and implement a control strategy to minimize additional spread based on a model that addressess cost, risk, probability of success and economic impact.

Lynn Bultman Private landowner

Add training of land owners for better awareness of invasives

Tom Hougham Private landowner

All invasives should be controlled whether in or near forest lands. The use of 19" and 100 years is inadequate. Some stands of trees in excess of 130 years should be encouraged as well. Biomass harvesting is an error and should be discontinued.

Paul Gries Private landowner

All landowners including homeowners need to be educated on all invasive plants and trees.

Indiana is so far behind other areas in our forest management and forest education. Education needs to start with our children.

Marcus Aguilar University

Ban the sale of invasive species at nurseries in Indiana.

James Nardi Private landowner

Begin removing invasive plants from Indiana's state parks and encourage visitors to clean shoes before entering areas devoid of invasive plants.

Danny L. East Conservation group

Compile a list of invasive species, and prohibit the importation, possession, and sale of such.

richard landon **Other**

create a program to assist landowners with removal of invasive plants..

James Richards **Private landowner**

Develop and disseminate best practice information for invasive control. Develop and disseminate best practices for increasing biodiversity in a number of typical landform/soil type areas

Joe Kmiec **Private landowner**

Develop biological methods of controlling invasives, especially autumn olive and bush honeysuckles.

Eric Anderson **Private landowner**

Develop cost incentives to reward farmers for maintaining forest buffers in riparian areas.

William Smock

Disallow nursery stock sales of invasives Issue #4 is tricky: the way to increase forests of fewer than 19 years of age is, obviously, to harvest forests in the middle age group, making space for younger forest. Then how do you ever get trees over 100 years old when your aging forest fails due to climate change or parasites? Younger forests absorb more CO2

Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley **Government**

Explore economic uses for invasive biomass, as a way to encourage, control/management/harvest of invasive woody species.

Harry Russell **Private landowner**

Find some legal way to help rid invasives "across the fence" from the property of someone who tries hard to eliminate them when neighbors see no need or even think they are pretty. Education??????????

Gary & Pequita Sissom **Private landowner**

Give information to forest owners on how to eradicate Japanese Honeysuckle

Bryan Wipperman

help cost share for invasive control

Robert J Jacobson **Private landowner**

I have over the years introduced approved species that later became noxious species!! Examples are Autumn Olive and Amur Honeysuckle!! I wiped out the Japanese Knotweed on my own but have lost the battle with Autumn Olive!! Need help!!!

James H. Warner **Private landowner**

If you know that a species is truly an invasive species, but landowner should be advised before any removal of plants.

Liz Jackson **Conservation group**

I'm not sure what #2 means. Removal by the government? Identify and create strategies to stimulate oak regeneration on private and public lands.

Matt Patterson **University**

It should be noted that the definition of Native/Invasive is going to get thorny in the next few decades, as Southern trees may begin to move North due to climate change, so developing a definition that accounts for climate induced habitat shifts is probably a good idea.

BRUCE MICHALOS **Private landowner**

More descriptive information showing plants and trees that should be removed from the woods

Tom James **Private landowner**

On line assistance featuring invasive non natives for landowner education and assistance in identifying these species. Promotion of Quality Deer Management practices which goes hand in hand with biodiversity and other habitat development strategies while also balancing deer numbers and sex ratios

Paul Arlinghaus **Recreation**

Partner with recreational groups to remove non natives in recreational corridors.

Janet Kennedy Private landowner

People need more ed abt what plants are invasive, esp honeysuckle! If we could eradicate invasives on public land that would be huge. There is a big bush honeysuckle along Lick Creek in a Paoli park. Ugh. Of course, it is all along the creek now along w/garlic mustard, jap honeysuckle, ailanthus, euonymous...

Dont forget the Butternuts! Indiana needs to focus on wind not biomass incinerators. what an eco-disaster those are!!!!!!!!!! County road crews in Orange Co have spread Jap stilt grass all over. They need to get rid of it (HA!) & vow to stop spreading invasives around the Hoosier Natl Forest. So county & probly state road depts need ed too.

Charles Colburn Private landowner

prevent any wood - lumber from being imported into indiana without being heat treated to kill all insects. including machinery packaging and pallets.

nathan pate Private landowner

prohibit interstate shipment of invasives to indiana. (e.g. internet orders) allow mature, dying and dead trees to remain in public forests.

Mike Warner Private landowner

Promote CWMAs

John Richardson Other

Provide incentives to private and public (parks) landowners to control invasives

Stephen J. Stein University

Provide landowners who have forests with information regarding INVASIVES that can be understood by non-professionals! Provide clearer information to landowners with forests.

ruth engs Private landowner

Publish more photos of invasive plants

Have lists of reliable loggers

Dennis Tibbetts Private landowner

Stop Kudzu at the Ohio River

jerry hartley Recreation

the last strategy should be included in the first strategy (as listed in this section)

Jean Merritt Private landowner

There is a need for trained professionals to help private land owners. Most foresters are only beginning to focus on this.

Margaret Carson Private landowner

Utilize MEDIA (television) to encourage forest health practices and how to limit INVASIVES Provide INFORMATIVE SHEETS in rural businesses (feed stores) addressing limiting INVASIVES

Amy Ratliff Private landowner

warning labels on invasive plants in nursery sales. Allow removal of invasive plants on private land if the landowner asks for help or gives permission for the removal.

Ken Walton Private landowner

We need to monitor Thousand Canker Disease in western/adjacent states and regulate the transport of infected product. We must be prepared to quarantine infested areas and shipments.

David Ellis Environmental group

Contraceptive darting should be used for deer management in order to prevent post-cull population booms. Preservation of unique forests should be the number one priority.

John Buffington Government

Deer management needs to be based on a broader set of issues.

Daniel Johnson University

institute land scape level management organizations to aid in communications between multiple land holders to preserve biodiversity, decrease fragmentation, and minimize soil erosion.

Chris Egolf Other

Private landowners should be educated and encouraged to act or participate. Nothing should be done legislatively.

Billy Mundy Private landowner

Advise individual "retiring private landowners" the most beneficial avenue to advertise/sell timber stands, or how best to "gift" these stands to family.

Cindy Meeks Private landowner

Allow tracts of woods of less than 10 acres but more than 5 acres in acres that are next to waterways to be included in incentive programs

Aaron Klabunde Private landowner

Develop a voluntary, but permanent (part of deed or zoning?) "Legacy Forest" designation for qualified classified forests that will end all timber harvests (and other commercial activity) on that portion of the forest and allow the "Legacy Forest" to return to a high forest condition.

Cheryl Gettelfinger Other

Do not rely on outsourcing as there is too much of an incentive to make money over preservation. Secondly, give tax breaks to counties that provide forestry vs. commercial industry.

Rob Morrissey University

Incentives for ecosystem services is an important vehicle to help safeguard environmental and ecological concerns and could be incorporated into Classified Forest Program incentives. Also, the impacts of biomass harvesting from forests is a big unknown at present and should be approached with great caution until we have a better understanding of ecological impacts.

Kevin Summerlot

Increase incentives that promote new trees being planted

DANIEL POTH Private landowner

NO NEW TAXES

Kathy Klawitter Private landowner

This is a question about "Increase state funded incentives for forest management like..." - like what? I think the rest of the sentence got lost somewhere, so I couldn't "answer" that item. If the sentence ended ""classified forest" I would vote for it.

douglas c. warnecke Private landowner

We need to improve communication between the State and private land owners - I would like to see more contacts from our regional foresters. Should we add more state foresters??

Email Submitted comments

These comments have not been edited but contact information has been removed.

Tom Ollar

The private land owners of the state have come to realize that through proper management of their lands, they can continue to have vibrant forest lands as well as an ongoing income.

The priority of the state should be to properly manage the lands that are in their care. As tax payers, we all own these lands and they should be managed for the good of all citizens. Proper forest management equals healthy forests for everyone. Part of proper forest management is the cutting and sale of timber. I sincerely hope you will keep cutting in the equation for healthy forests.

Lori Maggart

A few years ago, the Bio Crossroads Study showed that the most important part of Agriculture in the State of Indiana, is the forest products industry. This has happened over many years of proper forest

management. The private land owners of the state have come to realize that through proper management of their lands, they can continue to have vibrant forest lands as well as an ongoing income. The priority of the state should be to properly manage the lands that are in their care. As tax payers, we all own these lands and they should be managed for the good of all citizens. Proper forest management equals healthy forests for everyone. Part of proper forest management is the cutting and sale of timber. I sincerely hope you will keep cutting in the equation for healthy forests.

Renda Harvey

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David S. Bramlage

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Robert J. Boklund

In reviewing today's update of the Statewide Forest Planning Update, I noticed that my comments on the survey (see attached) were conspicuously absent from this updated document, even though they were submitted by the April 16, 2010 deadline.

In submitting these remarks, my intentions were not to embarrass the Division of Forestry, with whom I have interacted positively for many years. Rather, it was to call attention to an important forest conservation initiative that the Division advocated locals here undertake, during their focus group meetings in 2004. But then later, after locals did indeed undertake this effort, the Division seemed hardly acknowledge or show any real interest in that very initiative that they had promoted, back then. It is less important that these remarks be included in the assessment than to have the Division of Forestry now aid in this local effort, via participation in some meaningful way in the Moraine Forest Committee meetings and/or provide recognition and advice on forest conservation strategies for these efforts.